GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2581
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2000
POWER PLANT OF BHEL
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has installed a200 KW power plant in Hyderabad based on Phosphoric Acid Fuel Cells (PAFC) for evaluation under Indian conditions;

(b) if so, the working of the Power Plant during 1998-99, 1999-2000, till date, alongwith the details of its economic feasibility; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to use PAFC for installation of more power plants in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEAVY INDUSTRIES & PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

(DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA)

(a) : Yes, Sir. BHELhave installed a 200 KW demonstration PhosphoricAcid Fuel Cell Power Plant (FCPP) procured from M/s ONSI/Toshiba Corporation, USA at their R&D centre in Hyderabad as a sponsored project of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES).

(b) : The installation of the project was completed by 23.06.1998. The plant was operated in Grid Connected (GC) mode as well as Grid Independent (GI)mode from 01.10.98 to 15.04.99. In GC mode the plant was operated from 0800hrs to 1600 hrs at its rated capacity of 200 KW. In GI mode, the plant was operated from 1600 hrs. to 0800 hrs.
Because of problems faced with regard to heaters of the power plant, the plant was being operated by BHEL in warming up state with the help of indigenously developed cartridge heaters.
To reach any conclusion, it is necessary to further assess technical feasibility and economic viability of the fuel cell power plant in greater detail.

(c) : The Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources has taken up researchand development projects on various aspects of fuel cells. Small fuel cell systems have been developed and used for experimental power generation and vehicular applications.